

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
2 February 2016

Original: English

Identical letters dated 1 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to attach herewith a statement issued by the Arab coalition forces to restore legitimacy in Yemen (see annex). The statement includes the following points:

- (a) The coalition reaffirms its respect for, commitment to and compliance with the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law;
- (b) The coalition deeply regrets every human casualty in Yemen and reaffirms that all possible measures are taken to protect all civilians in that country;
- (c) The coalition reaffirms its support to and cooperation with the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian organizations to ensure the protection of all civilians in Yemen;
- (d) The coalition announces the establishment of an independent high-level team of civilian and military experts to assess reported incidents of civilian casualties, investigation procedures and mechanisms of precision targeting. The team is expected to issue a comprehensive and objective report covering each incident individually and containing recommendations and lessons learned;
- (e) The team will cooperate fully with the Yemeni National Committee in investigating alleged human rights abuses, and with the relevant United Nations entities, including the Security Council Sanctions Committee and the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014).

We take this opportunity to once again urge the Security Council to demand that all parties, and in particular the Houthis and their allies, ensure the protection of civilians, fully implement the Council's relevant resolutions, including resolution 2216 (2015), and to take appropriate measures against all parties that have not committed to implementing its resolutions and the countries supporting and associating with the Houthi militias and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in defying international legitimacy and threatening the region's security and safety and international peace and security.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdallah Al-Mouallimi
Permanent Representative

16-01412 (E) 040216 040216



Please recycle



Annex to the identical letters dated 1 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Statement of the Arab coalition forces to restore legitimacy in Yemen

Riyadh, 1 February 2016

The Arab coalition forces to restore legitimacy in Yemen stress that the coalition respects the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and that its commanders and troops comply with those rules. It deeply regrets any civilian casualties that have occurred in Yemen and reaffirms that it is taking all possible precautions to protect civilians and medical, humanitarian and relief personnel, as well as journalists and members of the media, in order to avoid civilian casualties. It stresses that it is cooperating fully with United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their humanitarian work, with a view to ensuring that international humanitarian law is respected and civilians are protected.

In keeping with its respect for international laws and norms, the Arab coalition announces that it is forming an independent, high-level team of qualified specialists consisting of senior officers, military advisers, weapon specialists and experts in international humanitarian law. That team will assess incidents and investigative procedures, and evaluate and enhance target identification methods. It will issue a full, candid and objective report on each incident that will contain conclusions, lessons learned, recommendations and procedures that must be followed in the future. To achieve its objectives, the team shall:

- Seek the assistance of such national, regional and international experts and specialists as it deems fit to assist it in carrying out its tasks;
- Arrange field visits by the team or its representatives to sites under investigation, where possible;
- Collect evidence and information on each incident from the relevant parties and take statements and hear testimony from anyone it deems appropriate;
- Cooperate fully with the Yemeni National Committee established to investigate allegations of human rights violations;
- Cooperate with the relevant United Nations mechanisms, including the Panel of Experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014) on sanctions against Yemen.

The relevant parties have been instructed to cooperate fully and transparently with the team, to assist it in carrying out its duties.

The team shall operate in tandem with the incident assessment units of the Royal Saudi Arabian Air Force and their counterparts in other member States of the coalition that, from the start of the Arab coalition's operations in Yemen, have been

assessing the facts and circumstances of each incident reported and submitting conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned.

The coalition command regrets media reports and allegations by human rights organizations that bombing by the coalition has resulted in civilian casualties. Those reports and allegations are totally false and are not supported by any cogent evidence or proof. The coalition command stresses that a careful and professional approach that is based on documented sources and credible evidence must be pursued before such allegations are published.
